



Technical Advisory Committee

April 23, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Present: Pete Wallers, Chairman representing MWCOG; Abby Crisostomo of MPC; Victor Ramirez, City of Crystal Lake representing MCCOG; Cassandra McKinney, College of Lake County; Walt Kelly of Illinois State Water Survey; Scott Meyer of Illinois State Water Survey; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Angie Ford, EEI; Tim Loftus, CMAP; Kyla Jacobson, City of Elgin; Ed Coggin representing MCCOG; Paul Schuch of Kane County; David Schmidt, Village of Barrington; Dave Schumacher, City of Aurora; John Hortness, USGS;

Pete Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions – Pete Wallers welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were given by those present.

Agenda Changes and Announcements – None at this time.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes – Kyla Jacobson made a motion to accept, Victor Ramirez seconded. Minutes were approved.

Regional Water Planning Update: Abby, MPC, stated that the group met on March 28th and discussed possible revenue options for IEPA for moving forward. The meeting minutes have been distributed for that meeting to the group. The second half of the meeting was spent talking about the rule changes for Lake Michigan. Pete sent a letter on behalf of MWCOG for partial allocation of Lake Michigan water. There will be three public hearings; May 14th in DuPage, May 15th in South Suburban and May 22nd at Lake County Central, all are at 9:30 AM. MPC will be releasing their paper on water laws on May 7th at a roundtable at our office. MPC will be hosting a roundtable on May 15th entitled *Tough Stuff: Resilient Infrastructure in a Changing World*. There's not another meeting scheduled for the group, we are waiting on IDNR at the moment.

State Plumbing Code Revisions: Abby MPC, gave a brief update on the status of the plumbing code revisions. The new version of the plumbing code is set to come out on Fri., April 26th. While they made a lot of the changes we were looking for; they did not include two of them – use of clear water and rules for greywater for indoor use. Once it is released there will be a 45 day comment period.

Various Updates: Indiana University Fellow – Abby, MPC, is hoping that 50% of their time can be used for NWPA.



DuPage Water Commission – Water Utility Manager Workshops – Abby, MPC, stated that there will be a series of four workshops coming up at the DuPage Water Commission. It will be opened up to other water managers; dates are last Wednesday of each month starting May 29th.

Lawn Water Care Manual Update – Abby, MPC, also gave a status of the manual; it's at production for layout and will be sending it out again for one last look. Pete we will be talking about the plan for roll out and the number of copies that will need to be reproduced. Paul Schuch, Kane County, suggested having a workshop in order to roll out the NWPA along with the manual. With 80 communities there's a lot of potential for spreading the word. Paul also suggested having a presentation that would go along with it that could be given at different places. Abby, MPC, reminded everybody that it's geared more towards the policy makers. Dave Schumacher, Aurora, suggested that a more concise handout for different levels be made. Pete stated that he will follow-up with Margaret. He also commented that it would be nice to send it to all Village President's and County Board Presidents first and then discuss the workshop idea.

General Discussion on Current Water Use in the NWPA Area: There was general discussion about water use in the NWPA region. Kyla of City of Elgin reported that there's been nothing unusual going on. She also stated that she has been giving several presentations on wise water use and general information about NWPA out there. This coming Sat., is Elgin Water Day; the Elgin High School Environmental Group and Deb Paramind are putting together this event which will include a walk along the river that will have informational kiosks along the way. There will also be tours at the Water Plant available. Victor Raimirez, Crystal Lake reported that had been nothing unusual at the moment. He commented that the drought is over and the aquifers are coming back up. Dave Schumacher, Aurora, nothing unusual going on either; he's hoping to get the Water Conservation Ordinance through next month.

Drought Conditions Presentation by Walt Kelly of Illinois State Water Survey: Walt Kelly, ISWS, gave his presentation about Drought Conditions in Illinois. The drought is officially over for 2012.

USGS McHenry County Monitoring Wells (Shallow and Deep) – they have really recovered and showing as high as they've been in the last couple of years.

Irrigation and the Mahomet Aquifer slide showing the effects of irrigation into the aquifer. There are about 50 irrigations in Champaign County that were not there 10 years ago. Showing water level decline of up to 12 feet from March 2012 to July 2012. If these droughts keep occurring then we will probably start to see more of this in the southern part of Illinois. IWIP is requiring irrigators to report starting in 2015. ISWS has received some money from IDNR and so this summer they will start putting together a plan in order to figure out how this is going to work. Walt will look statewide to see how many irrigation wells have been put in and will report back to the group.

The Drought Monitor Map may be accessed at <http://droughtmonitorw.unl.edu/>



All agency reports have been posted on the website at www.drought.illinois.gov.

Water Reporting – ISWS Update: Walt, ISWS, also gave an update on the eMor system. They are working on the A, B and D Class templates. Anybody else that would like to send in their monthly spreadsheets please do so.

Strategic Planning: Dr. Tim Loftus, CMAP, gave a quick recap of last month’s session and then started going through his presentation. He took the liberty of preparing a mission statement:

The Northwest Water Planning Alliance (NWPA), formed by intergovernmental agreements, seeks to collaboratively plan for and comprehensively manage our shared river and groundwater resources in a sustainable manner for the people, economy, and environment. Through scientific inquiry, data and information sharing, education and outreach, and policy and program recommendations, the NWPA provides a voice for communicating the value of water, a forum for building awareness, and a means through which enlightened use of water will ensure supplies for generations to come.

After much discussion it was decided that the **Draft Mission Statement** would be:

The Northwest Water Planning Alliance (NWPA), formed by intergovernmental agreements, seeks to collaboratively plan for and comprehensively manage our shared river and groundwater resources in a sustainable manner for the people, economy, and environment to ensure supplies for generations to come.

Tim presented the following draft goals for the group:

Goal #1: Build the organizational capacity to achieve mission.

Potential Objectives:

- Establish an annual stream of revenue
- Explore subregional scale management

Goal #2: Promote a water-use conservation and efficiency ethic.

Potential Objectives:

- Engage members in delivering an education campaign to users

Goal #3: Become known as the source of information/guidance

Potential Objectives:

- Deliver an annual report



Goal #4 : Establish sustainable water policies and practices that are widely adopted.

Potential Objectives:

- Produce a science-based definition of sustainable water use by source.
- Link stormwater management with water supply management.

Goal #5: Protect the quality of ground and surface water supplies.

Goal #6: Meet data collection needs so as to continue informed water supply planning.

Goal #7: Work with State Surveys to develop a multi-year research agenda that address NWPA priorities.

Goal #8: Ensure water for aquatic and other natural ecosystems.

Dave Schumacher suggested that we have three umbrellas with objectives located underneath.

#1 – Organizational Capacity; #2 – Education; #3 – Policies/Practices

#1 – Organizational Capacity

- Develop annual revenue stream
- Staff
- Internal communication/member engagement

#2 – Policies/Practices

- Develop scientific understanding
 - o Data collection/monitor
 - o Working with ISWS
- Protect the water quality promotion
- Member adoption
- Sustainability

#3 – Education/Outreach

- Conservation ethic



Dr. Loftus will draft the three goals with objectives to be sent out for additional comment to the group.

Next Meeting: Tues., May 28, 2013

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Submitted by _____ Angie Ford, Recorder